

Reducing the Spread of Invasive Forest Pests in Firewood: the Campground Connection

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Why focus on firewood?



- ❖ Nearly all recent finds of EAB have been associated with firewood. Many other invasives move on firewood.
- ❖ Quarantine efforts are challenged by lack of organization of the firewood industry and the fact much is moved by the public.

Wisconsin regulation (DATCP)

- ❖ External quarantine paralleling federal regulation. Allows tighter control of regulated articles.
- ❖ Within state quarantine, would be at the county level and can be imposed within 72 hours of ID.
- ❖ Developing approval process for firewood used on state lands, may evolve into regulation of the industry.

State campgrounds and their role in regulation of firewood.



- ❖ While it can be difficult to regulate trade we have control on what enters state campgrounds.
- ❖ State campgrounds have a high public profile, what is done there influences others.
- ❖ Educate the public about the risk of firewood when they are using it and it's on their minds.

How stringent should you be?

- ❖ Prohibit only out-of state firewood.
- ❖ Prohibit firewood from outside a certain radius.
- ❖ Prohibit all firewood from entering the campground/park.

Why WI chose to prohibit only out-of-state firewood in the first year.

- ❖ EAB not yet found in WI.
- ❖ Intensive notification efforts manageable.
- ❖ Disposal of confiscated wood more manageable.
- ❖ Provided year to educate campers of change in policy.



Why WI chose to limit allowable firewood to that from within 50 miles.

- ❖ To exclude pests and diseases not yet established locally.
- ❖ To contain infestations by reducing distance the vector, firewood, moves.
- ❖ It was practical.



WI regulation of firewood entering state properties

- ❖ On department lands, no person may possess firewood that originates from **greater than 50 miles** from the campground on that property where the wood would be used, or the property itself if there is no campground, **or from outside the borders of the state of Wisconsin. Firewood from sources approved by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is allowable.** Firewood includes all wood, processed or unprocessed, meant for use in a campfire.

Issues to consider in developing a firewood regulation program

- ❖ An effective firewood program must involve state & federal agencies, Tribes, industry etc. Organize early.
- ❖ Potential effect on tribal off reservation gathering rights, involve tribes early.
- ❖ Supplying firewood, involve firewood dealers, trade regulation agency.
- ❖ Disposal of confiscated firewood.
- ❖ Public education & notification crucial.

Components of the WI firewood regulation program for state lands.



- ❖ Enforcement of rule
- ❖ Notification and education.
- ❖ Providing local or approved firewood.
- ❖ Disposal of confiscated wood.
- ❖ Gathering information to improve program.

How the rule is enforced.

- ❖ During check-in, campers are asked if they brought firewood and where it is from. “Did you get the wood from within an hours drive?”
- ❖ If firewood is from further than 50 miles or out-of-state, it is confiscated.
- ❖ Citations are rare. If firewood is from quarantined areas, federal regulations and state quarantines come into play.

Outreach and education.



- ❖ Notify public of firewood regulations before they leave home with firewood,
 - notify campers during registration & send reminders,
 - include regulation & risk information in licenses for hunting, boats, ATV's, snowmobiles.
- ❖ Educate when public is thinking of campfires.
- ❖ Make it easy to get information with websites and toll-free information lines.

Providing local firewood.



- ❖ DATCP is developing a process to approve firewood dealers and for self regulation by Tribes.
- ❖ DNR is working with Friends groups and dealers to increase availability of wood at and near campgrounds.
- ❖ State and federal agencies are working on treatments for firewood that are within reach of small businesses.

Disposing of confiscated wood.

- ❖ Confiscated firewood is bagged, placed under clear tarps and exposed to solar heating until destroyed.
- ❖ Wood confiscated April-June must be destroyed quickly. Wood confiscated later is chipped in late fall.
- ❖ We are exploring the use of heat treatments and small kilns.



We will succeed or fail together

- ❖ We are trying to retrain the public to not move firewood. Our message must be consistent if we are to succeed.
 - Between states
 - Between state, county, & federal lands
 - Tribes must be involved
 - Between the US and Canada

Results so far of firewood regulation on state campgrounds.

- ❖ 557 bundles confiscated at 45 properties out of 13,000 out-of-state camping reservations.
- ❖ No confiscated firewood has evidence of EAB infestation.
- ❖ Notification of out-of-state campers appears to be effective.
- ❖ National Forest in WI, Barron Co. & some private campgrounds have adopted similar regulation.
- ❖ Interest by firewood industry in becoming more organized & regulated.